

Grand Opening September 18, 1982 12—5

BERNAL JOURNAL

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING BERNAL HEIGHTS AND SAN FRANCISCO

September 1982

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New Center Opens!!!

BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

513-515 Cortland Avenue

Phone: 648-0330

How did it all begin?

Well, as far back as 1974, a group of Bernal residents went down to the Board of Supervisors to ask for money for a much-needed Neighborhood Center. Sedalia Brown, Judy Forsberg, Audrey O'Gilvie, Pat Marsten, and Jonetta (a fondly remembered organizer from COMO) presented all the needs of the neighborhood to the Board: a neighborhood center, cleaner streets, police protection. These supervisors didn't even know that Bernal Heights existed!

Finally, in talks with Supervisor Robert Mendelsohn, Audrey requested money to pay rent for a temporary center—307 Cortland. Her youth program, Brothers and Sisters United, operated out of the temporary center.

Meanwhile, some angry residents over on Elsie Street were fighting to prevent a greedy developer from building large, expensive housing on the narrow, unsafe street. These members of the Northwest Bernal Block Club produced the *Elsie Street Plan*, which called for the creation of a nonprofit, neighborhood-based housing development corporation—and in 1978 the Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF) was formed.

The BHCF and the residents who had fought so long for a neighborhood center joined forces (in fact Sedalia and Audrey are charter members of the BHCF Board of Directors). A proposal was submitted to the Mayor's Office of Community Development (OCD) requesting funds to purchase and rehabilitate two adjacent buildings on Cortland.

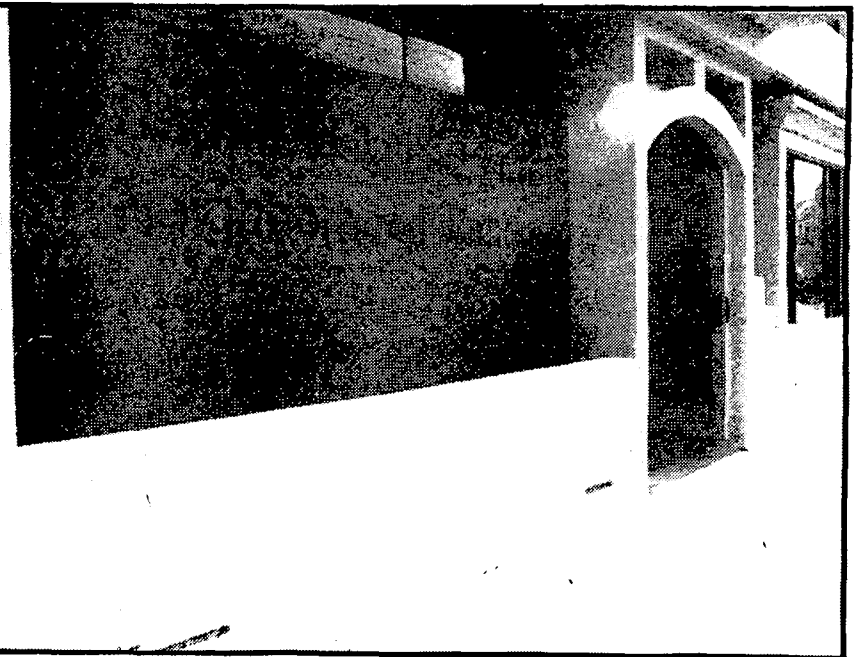
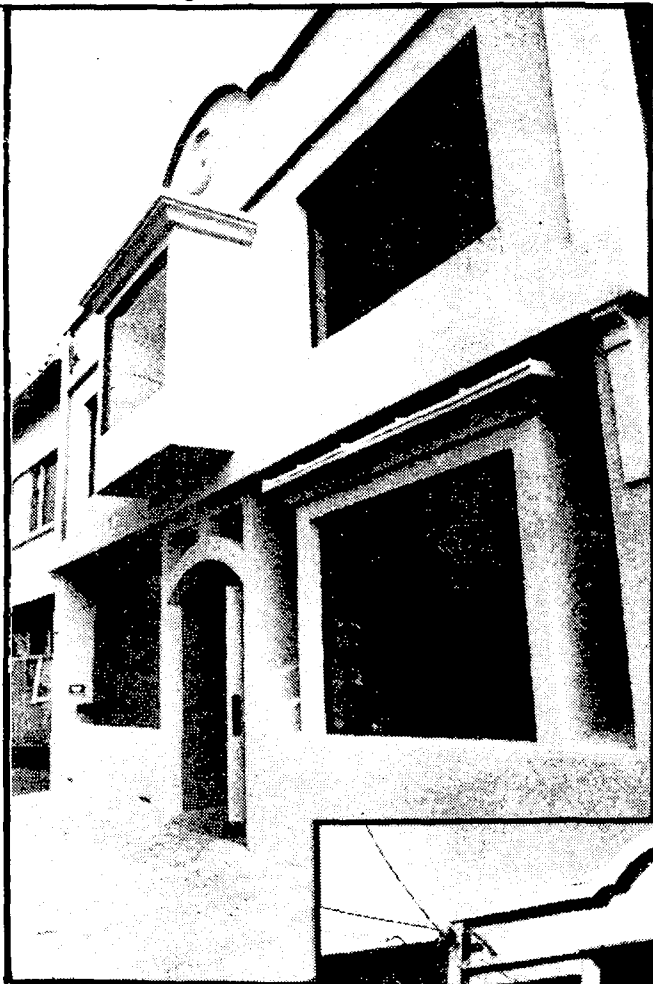
That got the ball rolling. Working with Mayor Feinstein and her staff, the BHCF received the OCD grant. The down payment for the buildings was obtained from neighborhood contributions and a loan from The Youth Projects.

Over the course of the development, OCD provided \$584,000 for the Center. S.W. Cowell Foundation granted \$33,303 for the kitchen, and \$5,000 came from Chevron USA for the solar hot water system. The Rosenberg Capital Management Foundation gave \$10,000. For furniture and equipment, the Bothin Helping Fund granted \$5,000, and IBM Corporation donated \$500. Staff and training were paid for by the Hewlett Foundation's \$27,500. The Commission on Aging funded the Senior Program \$35,000.

As you can see, a lot of hard work, dedication, and money went into the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. So let's enjoy!

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Offers:

- Meeting Rooms
- Senior Services
- Kitchen
- Youth Services
- Dining Hall
- Health Services
- Arts and Crafts Room
- Social Hall



Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

Calendar of Events

Monday — September 13

10:00 a.m., Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Classes
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:30 p.m., Blood Pressure
7:00 p.m., English Classes
7:30 p.m., BHCF — Board of Directors

Tuesday — September 14

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Van Outing
6:30 p.m., Escrima

Wednesday — September 15

10:00 a.m., Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referral
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Movie Night. "Enter the Dragon".
7:30 p.m., Neighborhood Center Committee

Thursday — September 16

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Shopping at Safeway
6:30 p.m., Escrima
7:00 p.m., English Class

Friday — September 17

10:00 a.m., Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
3:00 p.m., Food & Decorating Party for "Open House".

Saturday — September 18

OPEN HOUSE

11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Monday — September 20

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Girl's Scout

Tuesday — September 21

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Van Outing
3:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Jogging
6:30 p.m., Cortland Merchants Association
6:30 p.m., Escrima

Wednesday — September 22

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Project Safe — Workshop. "Seniors Safety"
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referral
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Movie Night. "Brian's Song".

Thursday — September 23

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Shopping at Safeway
1:30 p.m., Senior Flu Program
6:30 p.m., Escrima
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Bernal Heights Council

Friday — September 24

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Bingo After Lunch
7:30 p.m., Meditation Seminar — Part I, "When Everything Is Not Enough". Main Speaker: Swami Uimalananda.

Saturday — September 25

9:00 a.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts

Monday — September 27

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
11:00 a.m., Live Music — Birthday Celebration
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:30 p.m., Blood Pressure
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Girls Scout

Tuesday — September 28

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Van Outing
3:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Jogging
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts

Wednesday — September 29

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referral
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Movie Night. "Casino Royale".

Thursday — September 30

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Shopping at Brentwood
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
7:00 p.m., English Class

Friday — October 1

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Bingo After Lunch

Saturday — October 2

9:00 a.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts

Monday — October 4

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
6:30 p.m., Salsa-Aerobics
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Girls Scout

Tuesday — October 5

10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Van Outing
3:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Jogging
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Drug Education Workshop, Slide Show — Speakers.
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
Wednesday — October 6
10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referral
6:30 p.m., Salsa-Aerobics
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Movie Night. "Cat Ballou".
Thursday — October 7
10:00 a.m., Senior Drop-In & Shopping at Safeway
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:00 p.m., Project Safe — Workshop, "Personal Safety & Crime Prevention". Bernal Heights Council. "Good Neighbors Campaign."
Friday — September 8
10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Bingo After Lunch
Saturday — October 9
9:00 a.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
10:00 a.m., Salsa Aerobics
5:00 p.m., "International Ethnic" Community Potluck Dinner
Tuesday — October 12
10:00 a.m., Senior Socializing & Van Outing
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
3:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Jogging
6:30 p.m., Escrima
7:30 p.m., Meditation Seminar — Part II, "When Everything Is Not Enough". Main Speaker: Swami Vimalananda.
Wednesday — October 13
10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referral
6:30 p.m., Salsa Aerobics
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council, Movie Night. "Chato's Land".
Thursday — October 14
10:00 a.m., Senior Socializing & Shopping at Brentwood
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
7:00 p.m., English Class
Friday — October 15
10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Bingo After Lunch
3:00 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Cooking Class
Saturday — October 16
9:00 a.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
10:00 a.m., Salsa Aerobics

Monday — October 18

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Girls Scout

Tuesday — October 19

10:00 a.m., Senior Socializing & Van Outing
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
3:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Jogging
6:30 p.m., Escrima
6:30 p.m., Cortland Merchants Association

Wednesday — October 20

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referrals
6:30 p.m., Salsa Aerobics
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Movie Night. "On the Waterfront".
7:30 p.m., Neighborhood Center Committee

Thursday — October 21

10:00 a.m., Senior Socializing & Shopping at Safeway
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Bernal Heights Council

Friday — October 22

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
11:00 a.m., Nutrition Education
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Bingo After Lunch

Saturday — October 23

HEALTH FAIR

10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Monday — October 25

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:30 p.m., Blood Pressure
6:30 p.m., Salsa Aerobics
7:00 p.m., English Class
7:30 p.m., Girls Scout

Tuesday — October 26

10:00 a.m., Senior Socializing & Van Outing
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
3:30 p.m., Careers Abound — Workshop for Handicapped Unemployed.
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts

Wednesday — October 27

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
10:30 a.m., Spanish Class
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Health Education & Referral
6:30 p.m., Salsa Aerobics
7:30 p.m., Bernal Youth Council — Movie Night. "Lawrence of Arabia".

Thursday — October 28

10:00 a.m., Senior Socializing & Shopping at Brentwood
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
6:30 p.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
7:00 p.m., English Class

Friday — October 29

10:00 a.m., Senior Arts & Crafts, Exercises & Games
11:00 a.m., Nutrition Education
12:00 p.m., Senior Nutrition Lunch
1:00 p.m., Bingo After Lunch

Saturday — October 30

9:00 a.m., Escrima — Philippine Martial Arts
10:00 a.m., Salsa Aerobics

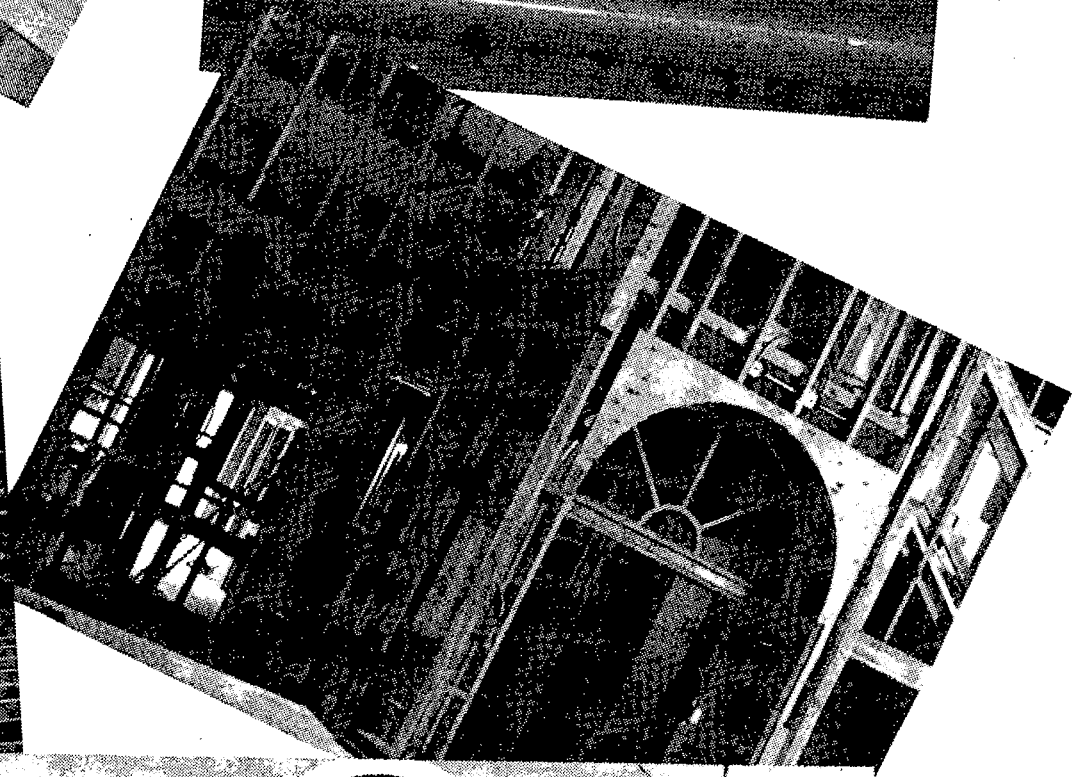
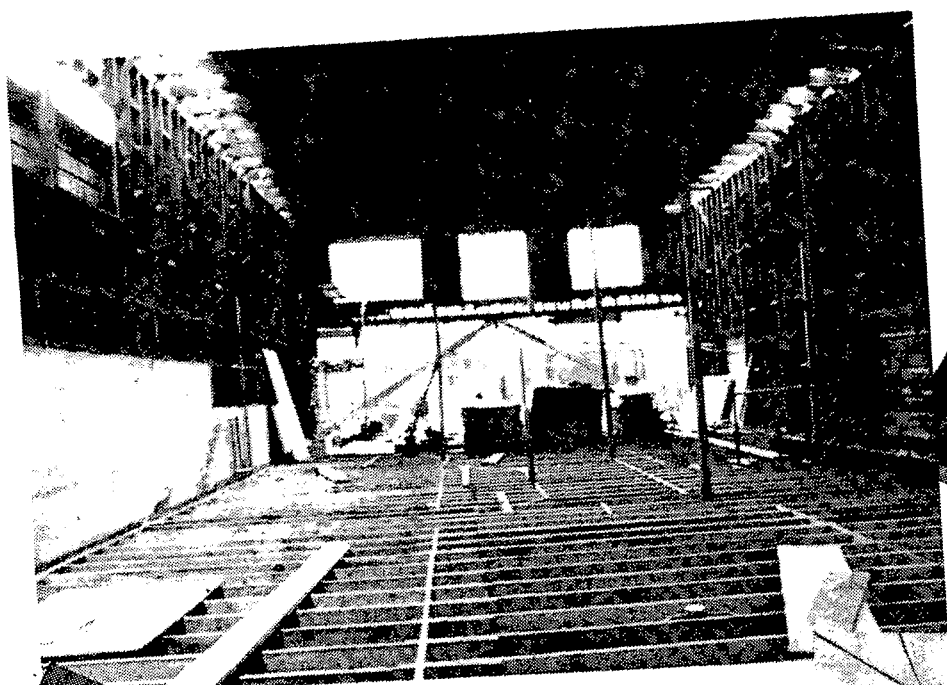
Sunday — October 31

4:00 p.m., Bernal Gym Advisory Committee to "Children's Halloween Program".

4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Bernal Gym Advisory Committee, "Children's Halloween Program".

A Dream

Come True



**Our Brand New
Center . . . Inside
and Out!**

Joint Effort



BHCF Director Roger Borgenicht escorts the Mayor into the BHCF office.

Mayor Visits Bernal

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation and the Bernal Heights Council joined hands in June to obtain funding and support for Bernal programs, and they went straight to the top to get help!

Mayor Feinstein graciously accepted the invitation to visit Bernal Heights, and spent over two hours touring the neighborhood. She was quite impressed with the products of our labor, and came through on her commitment to help us find the money and support we need:

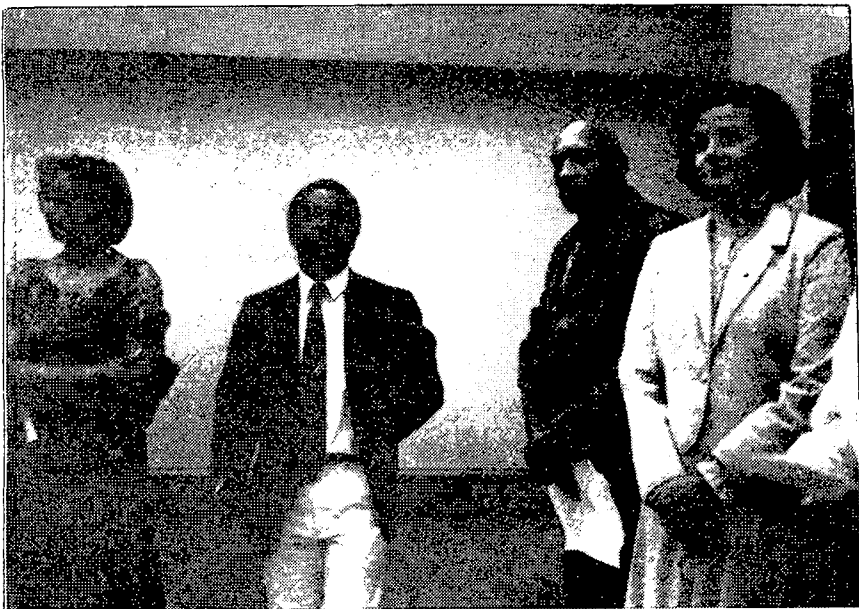
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|-----------------------|---|
| Bernal Senior Program | • \$14,385 |
| Housing Development | • \$15,000 |
| | (Rehab Loan Program) |
| | • \$59,000 |
| | (low/moderate income homes) |
| Neighborhood Center | • \$25,000 |
| Bernal Youth Council | • \$3,000 |
| Bonview Block Club | • Support for neighborhood plan |
| Elsie Street Plan | • Support for Elsie Street Plan |
| Bernal Library | • Support for keeping Bernal Library open |



The Mayor and entourage dine at the Senior Lunch Program.



Sister Janet Simons and Craig Duran fill the Mayor in on senior and youth activities.



Dorothy Hutchins, Larry Moore, and Lorenzo Dill with the Mayor.



Mayor Feinstein, Roberto Hernandez, and Roger Borgenicht listen as BHCN Treasurer Margaret Randolph speaks about housing development.



ST. KEVIN'S
Parish

Congratulations
on the
new center
opening!

704 Cortland Ave
648-5751



1922 - 1982
Precita Center

Welcomes
The New Neighborhood Center

534 PRECITA AVE.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94110
PHONE (415) 285-7833



The First Four Years



BHCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS— (left to right) Miley Holman (holding future Board member Abigail Holman), Penny Polatsch, Sedalia Brown, Margaret Randolph, Barbara Bagot, Lorenzo Dill, Mara Liasson, Kevin Williams, and mascot Otis. Not pictured: Bob Dutra and Audrey O'Gilvie.

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF) was formed almost four years ago by people on Bernal Heights who wanted to make sure that residents of Bernal Heights have their say-so in the future of Bernal Heights. Back then, in 1978, housing prices and rents were doubling and city and community services were being cut back. Housing was fast becoming an unaffordable commodity and services and programs for seniors, youth, families and all residents were minimal or non-existent.

Neighborhood residents responded to these concerns about potentially harmful impacts on Bernal Heights by organizing. They drew up plans that addressed issues of: affordable housing and architectural compatibility, voluntary low interest housing rehab loans, neighborhood facilities and services, and safe and adequate streets. The *Elsie Street Plan* recognized the need for a community-based non-profit corporation to provide the mechanism for neighborhood decision making. The *East Slope Plan*, another neighborhood-based plan, also recognized the advantages of such a non-profit organization.

The Community Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation in October 1978 with three main goals: 1) Preservation and development of affordable housing, 2) Development of neighborhood facilities and services that benefit low and moderate income residents and the whole community, and 3) Working with groups and individuals on Bernal to foster community spirit and unity and empowerment for our community and residents.

Neighborhood residents develop and direct all activities of the Community Foundation. Its Board of Directors is composed of Bernal residents, mostly low and moderate income, and represent all parts of the Hill. The BHCF has grown from an organization staffed mostly by VISTA volunteers to a staff of five full-time professional employees responsible for the various development, service and organizing programs.

BUCK BAGOT has left the staff of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation after over four years of dedication and commitment. He will, of course, continue his volunteer activities in the neighborhood. We thank him for his hard work and loyalty, and wish him luck in his new endeavors.

The Community Foundation has programs in three areas:

Affordable Housing — Preservation and Development

- The offering of low-interest *Community Housing Rehab Loans* to low income homeowners and renters to correct life-threatening hazards and other serious code deficiencies. These loans are as low as 3% and can be deferred payment loans if the household does not have the ability to repay on an installment basis.
- Building the *Holladay Avenue Homes*, 4 energy-efficient, architecturally compatible homes for sale to low and moderate income families on a limited-equity homeownership basis. These affordable homes will be built on a ¼-acre site on the East Slope and are due to break ground in September 1982.

Community Facilities and Services

- Developing the new *Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center* in two adjacent buildings on Cortland Avenue, one of which has undergone major rehabilitation and will have its Grand Opening September 18, 1982.
- A *Senior Program* that serves a hot lunch and provides social, educational and recreational services to 75 Seniors 5 days a week.
- A *Youth Council* that provides youth activities and opportunities for leadership development.

Neighborhood Planning and Organizing

- Working with the Bernal Heights Council, a coalition of Bernal organizations, to organize and empower Bernal residents, and to foster community spirit by sponsoring festivals, anti-crime campaigns, and other community events.

The Community Foundation is seeing the results of many years of hard work by volunteers and staff, but there's a lot more work to be done. Come join us!

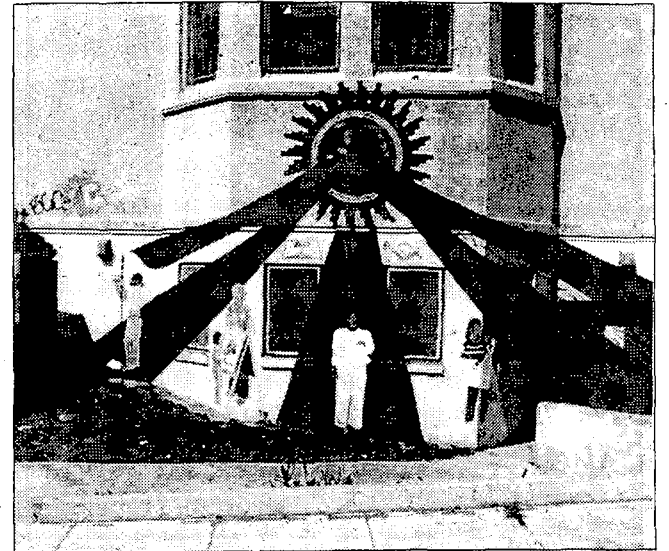
For more info call or write: BHCF, 399 Cortland Ave., 647-4255.



BHCF STAFF— (standing) Buck Bagot, Sybil Dixon, Marie Malveau; (front row) Roger Borgenicht, Roberto Hernandez. Not pictured: Larry Moore, Melida Nelson.

LIBRARY MURAL PROJECT

A Thousand Words ...



Following an intense summer of hard work and fun by the mural team composed of youth from the Summer Work Program; artists Arch Williams, Carlos Alcala, and volunteers are putting the final coats of paint and sealer on the library mural.

Since its initiation, the mural project has expanded from the back side of the library to include all four sides of the building. Funding has primarily come from the Office of Community Development through the Mural Resource Center, from greatly appreciated private donations of neighborhood residents and merchants, and from the Youth Fund of the Friends of the Police Department.

Former librarian Ruth McGuinness, community activist Kate Esposito, and a volunteer group originally got the project going and eventually chose Arch to design and paint the mural. He put up a large display of mural art at the library, held public meetings, did outreach to youth, seniors, and various organizations, and designed three walls because there were just too many ideas to fit on one wall. The design was then approved by the Library Commission and the Art Commission and the first team of summer youth workers and volunteers began to prepare the walls and paint in July, 1980.

However, after three months of painting, the project had to stop due to a moratorium placed by the Art Commission on all city mural projects after the newly painted murals at Holly Courts were destroyed by the Housing Authority. The Art Commission also wanted to take away the copyright from the mural artists. After 9 months of organizing and fighting, muralists from all over the city finally won back their ownership to copyright — and mural projects, including Bernal Heights', began again. More wall preparation and painting was accomplished by youth from the summer work program and last Fall Carlos joined the project as a designer and painter.

The Summer Youth Program has included the following youth workers whom Carlos and Arch wish to thank: Detra Bell, Jaina Brown, Rodney Carter, Frank Cortez, Anna Flores, Anthony Greene, Ray Hurd, Laura Jacquez, Thomas Jones, Keith Martin, Ted Martinez, Craig Maxwell, Raymond McCowan, Lolita Mendez, Lamar Merritt, Corrine Ratti, Canty Soto, and Wendell Henry. In addition, many volunteers such as Jo Tucker and Nancy Young have helped on the mural, and Karey Wehner and the staff of the library have given their support. Everyone is looking forward to the mural's completion and the celebration and dedication of this extensive work of community art.

We Remember When . . .

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

by Pete Tieso

I must have been about five years old when the building which is now the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center was being constructed. Can't remember whether or not the building had a number but I do remember that it was a sort of place where the residents could go for some kind of pastimes.

About 1910, when speaking pictures came about, the building was called the "Nickelodeon" because silent films were shown for people in the neighborhood. The cost to get in to see one of the films was 5 cents—that's where the word nickelodeon came from. I would say that the pictures lasted for about 35 minutes to an hour each and there would sometimes be a number of them shown on special days.

Then the place was used as a dance hall. There would be a band with accordion, saxophone, banjo and drum—about twice a month. The cost to get in was 50 cents—something which was not much compared to the prices of entertainment in these days. People who lived in Bernal Heights usually went to the dances for an evening of fun. (The neighborhood wasn't officially called Bernal Heights in those days—it was known as Nanny Goat Hill—named after the hill and the fact that many people had goats.)

Later on, the building was used as a fighting arena. Boxing lessons were given by Jack Dempsey, Mickey Walker, Mike Rich and Joe Roach. Believe it or not! Jack Dempsey was here as part of the hill's community. We did not have a gym in those days so the building was the place where people could gather for some kind of entertainment and sports activity.

After a while, it became Bill's hardware store. That lasted for many years until Bill got sick and died. But it was a good hardware store because Bill had all kinds of things that were needed—we didn't have to go all the way down to Mission Street.

I remember next that the building was used for housing and a barber shop—the Iudices owned the barber shop and soon bought the building. It was a popular place even after it became a barber shop—a place where the men could talk together and socialize.

I'll never forget the excitement up here on Cortland when the streetcar operators went on strike. There was no union and there were a lot of hot feelings when the cops came up here to end the strike. They were successful in doing so—and that is part of the history of unions in San Francisco.



The Iudices working in their new barbershop

SERVICES

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1962

HAIRCUT	\$2.25
HAIRCUT (Children Under 12 Years)	\$2.00
HAIRCUT (Children Saturday)	\$2.25
SHAVE	\$1.75

LIST OF HOLIDAYS
New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, Fourth of July,
Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

CLOSING HOUR 6:00 P.M.

(ILLUSTRATION FROM "THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE")

Do you believe these prices?

MEMORIES OF THE BUILDING THAT IS NOW OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

by Josephine Iudice



Shoot 'em up at the 1939 festival on Cortland.



Howdy, partner! A scene from the 1940 festival on Cortland, in front of what is now our new Neighborhood Center.



Josephine Iudice's husband and son in 1939, shortly after renting the Neighborhood Center building for their barbershop. Rent was only \$20 a month!

Photos courtesy of Josephine Iudice

Before I tell you about the building that is now the Community Center, I must tell you how the Iudice family came to Bernal Heights. We—my father, mother, sister and I—lived in North Beach where most Italians settled after coming here from Italy. But when the earthquake came in 1906 we all ran to what is now Fisherman's Wharf. My father worked in South City but when the earthquake happened, we did not know if we would ever see my father again. We tried to wait for him but the police and firemen were making people get out of the area because the fire was spreading. The police would tell people to get out: "Go anywhere and if you don't get out, we will shoot you." We were very afraid, my sister and I—but my mother was determined to stay as long as she could because of my father—we didn't want to lose him!

The police insisted that we had to go. A lot of the people left and most of them looked for places to stay. We later found out that many of them had walked over to what is now Bernal Heights because it was the safest place in the city at that time. People still say that it is the safest place to stay in case of an earthquake.

Well, anyway, we finally had to go with a lot of other people to the Presidio—with only a blanket and a pillow; we had to leave everything behind. There was no building to stay in: we slept outside in the cold. In the meantime, my mother was very sad because of my father. We were all sad because we thought we would never see my father again.

The next day, the Red Cross came and pitched tents for the people, and gave them blankets, cots, and food. You won't believe this—but I know that a miracle happened! My father appeared the next day—he had walked all the way from South City and had gone back to North Beach looking for us. He kept asking this one and that one about us until he found out where we were. Most of the people had vacated North Beach—but my father kept walking and asking until he walked to Presidio and found us there.

Then my dear uncle, who lived in San Jose, came to San Francisco in his horse and wagon to look for his brother and his family. He too had to look and keep asking about us until he found us at the Presidio. We were so happy that we could get out of the city—things were still burning because there was no water. It was like being in HELL!

We went back to San Jose with my uncle and lived there for a while, but we couldn't stay there because there was no work. So we moved back to San Francisco.

After I was married, we lived at 521 Gates St. The houses had numbers then—but there were no streets, only mud and dirt roads—and there was no public transportation. I walked to work on 16th Street every day, doing piece work. There was no compulsory schooling then—I wanted to go to school when I was a little girl but I didn't get to go very much.

Many people had cows, chickens, and many goats—it was like being in the country, but we liked it here. I worked very hard and my husband did too, but I had to convince him that we should have a nice home for our family and that he could do a lot better by renting the building which is now the Neighborhood Center. So he did and I worked hard to help him. We used the lower part for a barber shop and we lived upstairs. Soon we were able to buy the building and we stayed there until we were able to buy a lot for \$800—that was in 1938. We had a home built for \$8,000 where I now live. And thank God, I have never regretted that we lived on the hill.

I thank God every day that I live in Bernal Heights because I know how and why I got here, and I appreciate many good years of living here. I am so happy that when I walk into the new center I can feel that part of my life in that building!

8 Bonview Neighbors Unite

by Jan Botza

The neighborhood around Stoneman Street on the north slope of the hill, faced with another greedy condominium developer, has organized for a fight. Plans to build 18 high-priced condos on the corner of Stoneman and Bonview Streets were disclosed last fall. The block club then organized with the help of the Bernal Heights Council.

Anyone familiar with the proposed site knows of the dangers of putting so many units in such a small space. This intersection, which is at the top of a steep hill that creates a "blind spot" for any driver going over it, is already one of the most dangerous in the city. The land itself, with its rows of eucalyptus trees reaching up to the end of the park around the top of the hill, is a source of beauty and enjoyment for residents throughout the area.

The Bonview Block Club has already forced the developers to scale back their plans (the developers are Don Bernal Associates, a partnership including Mr. Barry Hanson of 1502 Shotwell St.). Now the club is trying to assure that whatever development occurs will be in accordance with neighborhood needs.

The Club has until the end of November to propose a neighborhood plan to the Planning Department. In October the Club, with the help of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation and the Bernal Heights Council, will hold a Saturday workshop for any and all interested people. A highly experienced planner, Jim Burns from Shotwell Street, will lead residents in a fun and enlightening program.

This issue is important to our entire neighborhood. It is about preserving a low- and moderate-income neighborhood, and preventing the displacement of people by luxury apartment developments. It is about the community taking control of the important decisions that affect our lives. For more information, call 647-1963 in the evenings.

ONE FROM THE HEART . . .

The People of Tomorrow

by a Bernal youth

We, the people of the Bernal Heights neighborhood — *The People of Tomorrow* — have been neglected. The youth that associate and socialize on the street are not there to scare or hurt anybody — we are there to pass time — away from a world that has turned everyone into robots; robots do not fascinate the People of Tomorrow.

We, the Youth (as we are called) have progressed a little. We have taken trips to the Russian River, Manteca, Great America, and other places. We are planning more trips and activities for us and others in the neighborhood, and have done these things respectably, with no complications whatsoever. We have good intentions, but are never given the respect due us. We have always been labeled on the bad side, and it is said that we wreck the neighborhood. But we don't even have an eighth of this world, and it is said that we ruin it. It is not us — it's the adults — who put labels on everything. These labels, once put on something, stick like glue, and people will follow the labels until a new one comes along.

Now that we have been recognized as part of the community, we feel strongly that we can finally do something for ourselves and for the people who follow us and maybe for the people who follow them. We hope we have a part, and are not just being used for something that has nothing to do with the people.



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BERNAL GYM AND PLAYGROUND

This Joint is Jumpin'

by Jim Thurston, Bernal Gym Advisory Board

What's happening at the Gym? Or—better yet—What do we want to happen at our Bernal Gym and Playground? These are questions addressed at the meetings of the Bernal Gym Advisory Board each month, which is currently under the leadership of directors Larry Peoples and Thomas Coleman.

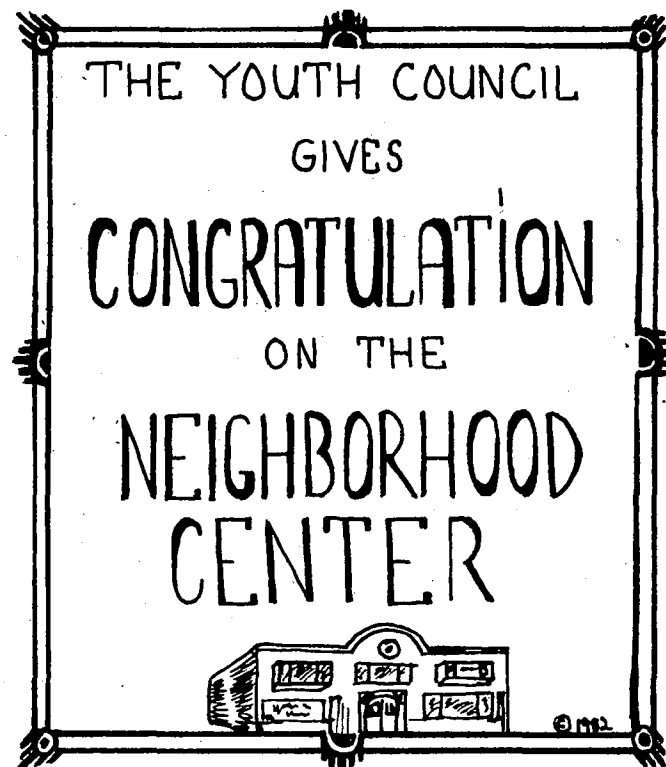
A Halloween extravaganza is now being planned for the gym—but we may have it at the new Neighborhood Center if the renovations prevent us from partying at the Gym. And did you here about our June 19th Barbecue? It was a special day for all persons, young and old, who followed their noses to good food, fun, and games—organized by the Gym Advisory Board, and sponsored by the Police Officers Association.

The gym will undergo major renovations this fall and winter, so this is the time to speak up about what we want from our facility. A neighbor recently said, "I would spend more time with my kids at the playground, but I hate to sit there—it's so windy and uncared for"! Many things can be done to make our playground more pleasant.

Some of our greater needs for the Gym and Playground:

- better care and maintenance of the facility
- more widespread use by community people
- more programs for young kids and teenage girls
- an atmosphere of care and respect for everyone

We are well on our way to achieving some of these goals, but we need more folks to come out and help us. Regular meetings of the Bernal Gym Advisory Board are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Gym, 7:30 p.m.



Pick Another Winner!

A trip for two to Reno . . . a color TV . . . a 10-speed bicycle . . . a \$25 dinner coupon at Pacific Cafe Seafood . . . tickets for two to Great America . . . a \$25 gift certificate for Grand Auto . . .

All these prizes will be raffled off at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Grand Opening/Open House Saturday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m.! Our terrific neighborhood merchants and many other friends of Bernal have donated oodles of gifts and services for the drawing, which is for the benefit of the Neighborhood Center.

AND there are prizes for people who sell the most raffle tickets!! **\$50 to the person who sells the most tickets, and a \$25 second prize!**

Raffle tickets cost \$1—or, better yet—buy a book of 12 tickets for only \$10. Tickets are available at the BHCF office, 399 Cortland Ave.

BH COUNCIL SAVES LIBRARY

In a recent demonstration of its strength, the two-year-old Bernal coalition of neighborhood groups called the Bernal Heights Council, won a fight with the Mayor and the Library Commission to save the Bernal Library from closing. While fighting successfully for the Bernal Branch, the Council was able to mobilize opposition to the Library Commission plans in other neighborhoods. Together, they prevented the closing of any branch libraries and gained \$2 million additional funding for the libraries this coming year. Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff said, "Bernal Heights is largely responsible for this city-wide victory for the libraries of San Francisco."

An ongoing committee called the "Friends of the Bernal Library" has been established and is circulating questionnaires to make the local library more responsive to neighborhood needs, to increase the use, and to protect it from being attacked in the future.

This victory showed the Mayor the level of concern on the Hill about city services, and demonstrated once again the organized political power of our neighborhood. It is an example of why the Bernal Heights Council, a coalition of church groups, block clubs, merchants, and others, was formed to "organize, educate, and empower neighborhood residents."

The Council's first successful effort was re-establishing the tradition of an annual Bernal Heights Festival. Last year's festival was a tremendous success. Thousands of people turned out for the sunny affair on Cortland Avenue. This year's festival is being planned for mid-October, and the Council could use any help you can give in planning or on the day of the event.

A working group of Council leaders has been developing bylaws for the organization. In the months ahead a Neighborhood Congress will be held to plan activities for the coming year. Those activities will include the continuation of the Good Neighbors Campaign of crime prevention, and fighting for jobs and services for the neighborhood youth. For more information about the Council and how it can help you, or to volunteer, call the new Neighborhood Center.



Concerned Bernalians out to Save the Library.

The Bernal Senior Program

Program Purpose

The goal and purpose of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation's "Bernal Heights Senior Program" is to foster the dignity and respect of aged human life. We strive to enhance the independence of older persons by providing community-based services that will enable them to live comfortably and independently in the least restrictive social environment.

Program Philosophy

That each individual aging person has the right to the dignity, respect, and concern of all community members, that each individual aging person must have the opportunity to participate in community life, offer services to one another and to the community, and help promote the positive images of aging through self-help and a service of reaching out to others.

Whom We Serve

We aim to serve all older persons in the Bernal Heights Area as well as those of other areas who find it beneficial to attend our program.

Who Is Eligible to Participate in the Program

Regardless of race, creed, color, sex or religion, any person who has reached the age of 60+ and his/her spouse is eligible to participate in the services offered by the program. In keeping with the multi-ethnic composition of the Bernal Heights community, all persons are welcomed.

Services Offered

Services offered to eligible persons and their spouses include:

HOT LUNCH served Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 12:00. (Beginning in October, lunches will be served every day M-F.)

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL—Bi-lingual translation

OUTREACH SERVICES—Visiting and telephone reassurance

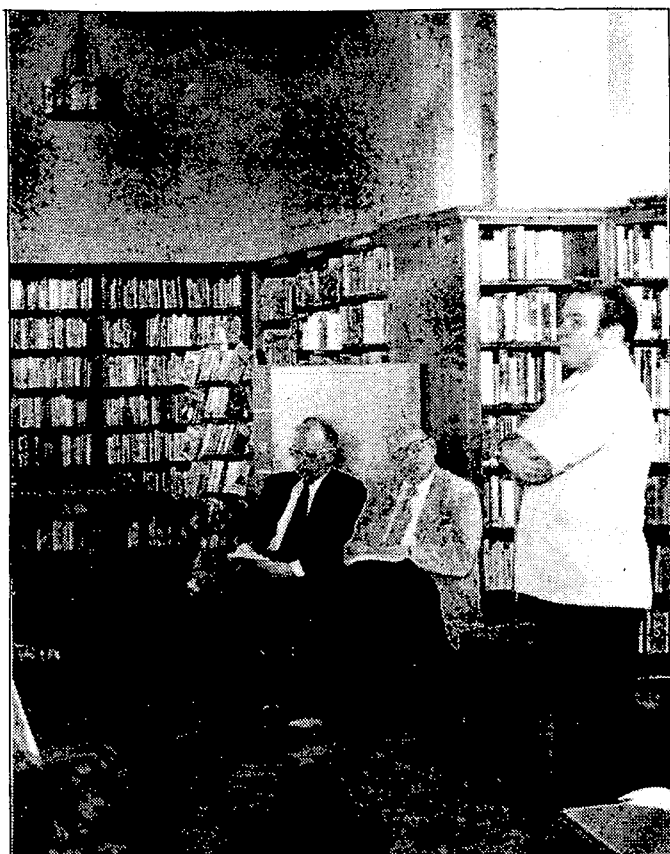
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The BHCF "Bernal Heights Senior Program" is funded by the San Francisco Commission on Aging.



John Frantz, City Librarian, and Walter Jebe, President of the SF Library Commission, listen to Mike Callaghy of the Cortland Merchants Association at the Save the Library meeting.

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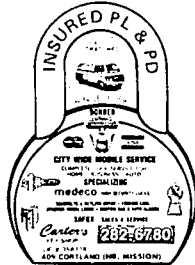
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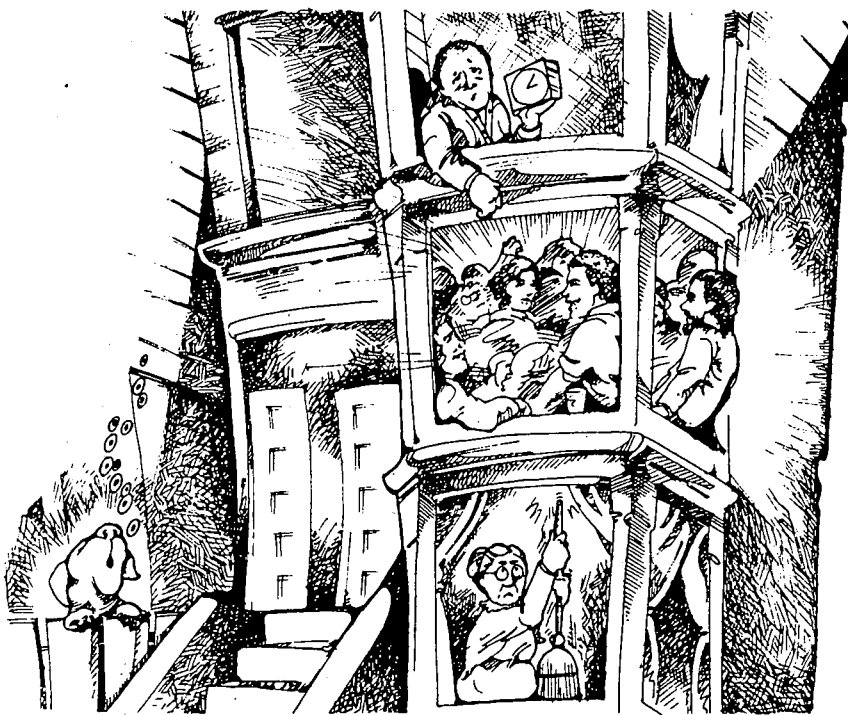
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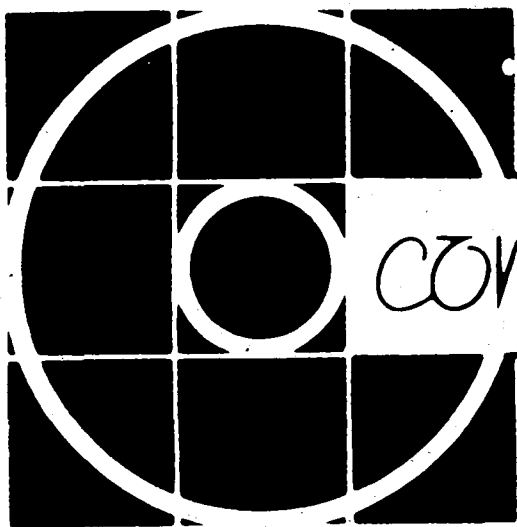


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Special thanks to these friends of the Bernal Journal
for their help on this issue:

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... and all the people in the distribution network.



NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER COMMITTEE—Just a few of the many hard-working members who have worked long and hard on the Center (left to right): Margaret Randolph, Paul Kreft, Roberto Hernandez (staff), Angie Espinosa, Carlos Alcala.



UNSUNG HEROES— Sedalia Brown (left) and Margaret Randolph were officially acknowledged for their dedication to the neighborhood at the San Francisco Fair and Exposition in June. Jeanne Hamer, former President of the BHCF, was also honored.

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation acknowledges
the following individuals, organizations, and funding sources
for their contributions, dedication, and commitment to the
development of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

INDIVIDUALS:

Art Agnos
Carlos Alcala
Barbara Bagot
Buck Bagot
Rev. Larry Banks
Regina Barr
Mattie Bates
Roger Borgenicht
Laura Bouyea
Susan Brier
Sedalia Brown
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Linda Canaga
Lyman Casey
Vincent Chao
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St. Kevin's Church
Cortland Merchants Association
Youth Project
Bernal Senior Council

There have been so many dedicated people involved in the Neighborhood Center effort;
we apologize if we omitted anyone.